

# CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



Computer Users' Group  
January, 1983 Vol 5 No 3

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| Back to School |  
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Welcome back! Hope you had a nice vacation. I know, I know, it was too short. Just think, only 12 weeks until exams! Hope you have a nice semester.

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| Party |  
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To celebrate the new year, C.U.G. is having a Welcome Back dance. We decided to call it Bootstrap '83. You should understand the name if you've taken Comp. Org. If you've taken Comp. Org. and you still don't understand it, review your notes. If you haven't taken the course and you understand it anyway, you should have no trouble getting a job when you graduate.

The dance is at the Holiday Inn, 420~~0~~ Sherbrooke St. West, Salon 'E'. Price is \$3.00 for C.U.G. members, \$4.00 for the rest of you and \$4.00 at the door. The time of the dance is 8:00 P.M. January 21st.

One last thing. The more you drink, the less we have to pay for the hall. Need we say more? Tickets are on sale now. Come to the C.U.G office at H-983.

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| New Member |  
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Remember the election we've been talking about? Well, it's over. Actually, it never took place. Maureen Cullen was elected by acclimation. She's our new member-at-large. Welcome aboard Maureen.

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| Bye Bye |  
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Despite a gallant attempt by his advisor (who shall remain anonymous), Dean Hummel (former co-editor) managed to graduate this past December. We're gonna miss ya Dean. Good luck in TD.

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| Ambition |  
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Are you hard working and bright? Do you want to have something good to put on your resume? Anxious to meet new people? Always wanted to be a P.O.D.? Do you like the corridors of power? (sometimes I get carried away)

If you answered yes to all of the above (4 yes and 1 no or 3 yes and 2 maybe is also acceptable), then we want you to be our new member-at-large. We're having the

election for the new member-at-large this Feb. 10th. If you're interested send a letter to John at CCUSC51.

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! What's New !  
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If you put a procedure called PROLOG in your PROCFIL, this procedure will be executed the moment you log on without you having to do a thing. Pretty nice, eh? Don't forget to include a MAILMAN command in PROLOG or you'll never get your mail.

And now for some rumours ... a network of 30 micros will be installed for students taking BASIC ... the computer centre might be getting a Cyber 173 to handle the added load on their resources ... there will be a big operating system upgrade in the summer ( hope they get the bugs out by Sept.)

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! Soap-box !  
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It seems that people complaining about the system response do not really know what they are talking about.

In the last editorial of CUG-News (November 1982, Vol 5, No 2), Mr Neil Gardner sees abuses by graduate students and faculty members. Something Mr Gardner should be aware of, is that during prime-time the 825 is operating undergraduate students accounts, and the 835 is operating graduate students and faculty members accounts (ref a recent letter from the computer centre). Because of the overload, undergraduate jobs run often under the 835, thus relieving the 825. The time and memory limits (300 sec and 150K respectively) that

have already been set up by the Computer Centre (yes, these are the actual limits during prime-time), are very reasonable. Some faculty members (and even graduate students) jobs DO require more than 100 CPU-seconds and HAVE to be run during prime-time (e.g. gathering the operating system's statistics,...). Moreover, if the system is 'slow', it is not necessarily due to 20 to 30 graduate students and faculty members' jobs, but to jobs run by non-Computer Science students. Namely, students in Commerce and QM, who use the major part of the presumed 'shared' resources, especially running assignments that require a very large memory space and CPU-time (e.g. statistical packages). These problems (among many others) have been debated during the recent meetings of the Sub-Committee of Computer Science, and we may expect that a solution will be found in the very near future.

If Mr Neil Gardner complains about the length (in terms of CPU-time) of his own assignments, should not he forget COBOL assignments (especially C351) and all the projects better known under the name of 491.

I believe that Mr Neil Gardner should not just regard the compassion of his fellows when they see him spending hours debugging a program or waiting for an output when he has a time limit problem, but be more realistic and get more informed on the facts.

Nabil Naccache

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! Reply !  
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I always enjoy reading a letter that begins and ends with an insult

to my person. I have chosen therefore to ignore the first and last paragraphs of Nabil's letter.

I called the Computer Centre to get the facts straight. They confirmed for me that all faculty, graduate and undergraduate jobs are run exclusively on the 835, not the 825. The only time we use the 825 is when the 835 is down. I was also told that no graduate student or faculty member has run a job to collect operating system statistics in the last few months.

As to who is responsible for slowing down the system, I refer

Nabil to Software Bulletin 387. This bulletin explicitly states that the degradation of our systems performance has been traced to large Batch and IAF jobs. Surely students using BASIC do not fall into this category. Furthermore, all the grad students I have talked to state that indeed their assignments force them to run large CPU bound jobs.

I leave it to the readers to determine who is uninformed.

Neil Gardner

Editor